

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

Please cancel claims 19-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:
  - specifying nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node;
  - counting a number of overlaps between the communication zone of the mobile node and communication zones for each of the specified nodes; and
  - selecting, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node, the specified node for which a largest number of overlaps has been counted, where the selection of the candidate node occurs without using a received signal strength indicator.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:
  - specifying neighbor nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node;
  - specifying neighbor nodes for each specified neighbor node of the mobile node that are present within a communication zone of a corresponding one of the specified neighbor nodes of the mobile node;
  - counting a number of overlaps between communication zones that are within the communication zone of the corresponding one of the specified neighbor nodes of the mobile node for each of the specified neighbor nodes; and
  - selecting, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node, the specified neighbor node of the mobile node having a largest number of overlaps has been counted, where the selection of the candidate node occurs without using a received signal strength indicator.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selection is not performed if the specified node in the communication zone of which the largest number of nodes have been counted is the same as a node with which the mobile node is currently in communication.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 3, wherein when there are a plurality of specified nodes in the communication zone of which the largest number has been counted, an arbitrary one node is selected.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying, said counting, and said selecting at predetermined periods.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying the neighbor nodes present within the communication zone of the mobile node, said specifying the neighbor nodes present within the communication zones of the neighbor nodes, said counting, and said selecting at predetermined periods.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined period is changed in accordance with a movement speed of the mobile node.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined period is changed in accordance with an arrangement density of the specified nodes.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.

11. (CANCELED).

12. (CANCELED).

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specified nodes are uniformly dispersedly arranged.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the specified

nodes are uniformly dispersedly arranged.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a wireless transmitter; and

a processor operable to specify nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node which moves among a plurality of nodes dispersedly arranged; count a number of overlaps between the communication zone of the mobile node and communication zones for each of the specified nodes; determine the specified node for which a largest number of overlaps has been counted and the specified node for which a second largest number of overlaps has been counted; and select, in accordance with node density, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node, the specified node for which the second a largest number of overlaps has been counted, wherein the candidate node is selected by the mobile node, where the selection of the candidate node occurs without using a received signal strength indicator.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus is the mobile node which moves among a plurality of nodes.

17. (CANCELED).

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.

19. (CANCELED).

20. (CANCELED).

21. (CANCELED).